

#3A/jer

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Germond et al.  
Appl. No.: PCT/EP00/05834  
Filed: Filed Herewith  
Title: LACTOSE OPERON OF LACTOBACILLUS DELBRUECKII AND ITS USE  
FOR CONTROLLING GENE TRANSCRIPTION AND/OR EXPRESSION IN  
BACTERIAL CELLS  
Art Unit: Unknown  
Examiner: Unknown  
Docket No.: 112843-039

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

In the Claims:

Please amend Claims 1, 4, 5-6, 8, and 10-17 as follows:

1. A DNA sequence represented by a general formula selected from the group  
consisting of:

p/o - (A)<sub>n</sub> - R<sub>y</sub>, and

p/o - R<sub>y</sub> - (A)<sub>n</sub>

wherein

p/o denotes the DNA sequence identified under SEQ ID No. 9, which retains its capability to  
bind to the lac repressor protein of *Lactobacillus delbrueckii*;

A denotes a heterologous gene coding for a polypeptide of interest,

n denotes an integer of  $\geq 0$ ;

R denotes a gene coding for the lac repressor protein as identified under SEQ ID No. 2; and

Y is 0 or 1.